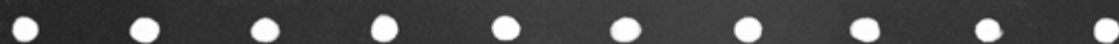




CATCH of the **DAY**



A SAKANA FANZINE



An Interview with MAD Rupert

Thank you for downloading Catch of the Day!
We hope you enjoy this exclusive interview with Mad about the ideas and process behind Sakana.

1. What drew you to comics in the first place?

I LOVE COMICS A WHOLE DANG LOT. Like many people my age, I started with Calvin and Hobbes and Garfield and things like that, and graduated up to series like Spiderman and Bleach in high school. My claim to fame as a child was drawing all 151 of the original Pokemon on individual sheets of paper, which I kept in a big binder that I carried around everywhere. So that's where a lot of my interest in comics and drawing came from. It was only a matter of time until I started creating my own characters and stories.

Lots of people who are interested in comics use it as a jumping block into different careers like storyboarding, concept art, and animation, but I am 100% all about making comic pages. I used to write long, unwieldy fantasy stories in high school (featuring angels and demons, of course), but once I got my first graphics tablet in college I became hooked on the idea of writing AND drawing my own stories (which then made it impossible for me to ever just write fiction again, which is sad, but I try to take the good with the bad, y'know.)

2. How did you come up with the idea for Sakana?

I went to the Savannah College of Art and Design for undergrad (and then grad school, but that's a story for another time), where I majored in Sequential Art. I was lucky enough to get picked to go on a "Comics In Tokyo" study abroad program which took us to Japan for a few weeks to see and draw the sights. The final project for one of the classes was to create 11 comic strips based on something we enjoyed during the trip, and after a lot of brainstorming and bad ideas I finally settled on a rom-com that took place in the Tsukiji Fish Market. This is why the comic has always been in strip-format, though I didn't originally plan to continue it past the first 11 pages! That was so so so so many pages ago...look at us all now. Reading this Sakana fanzine. LIFE IS WACKY, RIGHT??

3. What was your impression of the real life Tsukiji Fish Market?

The IRL Tsukiji Fish Market is honestly beyond belief. It has so many layers, it's almost impossible to get into the actual heart of the market where the stalls and vendors are (and where most of Sakana takes place.) There's a street market outside, then restaurants, tourist shops, a produce market that's only a little bit smaller than the fish market, a flower market, and thousands of vehicles, and millions of fish and other pieces of seafood. All jam-packed into an area the size of a few city blocks. Visiting there was definitely life-changing. This gigantic famous wholesale market in Japan is the reason I can make a living off of my art and support my family today?? Unfortunately, due to new building codes, cramped conditions, and the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, Tsukiji's days are numbered, and the old market will be demolished within a year. It definitely hurts a lot to think about. But I did get to visit it a second time in September 2016. Maybe some miracle will happen and I'll be able to visit one more time before it's gone for good. In any case, I hope that Sakana can keep the Market in everyone's mind for a little longer after its gone, and honor its memory.

4. Who is your favorite character to write?

I like to write all of the characters! Jiro is probably the most tricky because he's the everyman main character, so I need to keep him relateable but also engaged in the story. Writing Yuudai is like unwinding a big ol tangled ball of barbed wire, and I'm really pleased with the character development he's gone through. But sometimes it's difficult to keep all the characters on equal footing because some of them have more to unpack emotionally than other characters. Writing a big ensemble cast is very challenging, but also very rewarding when all the storylines start to fall into place!

5. What are some of your art or storytelling influences?

My true passion is fantasy, so I was extremely surprised when a giant slice of life romantic comedy became my first big hit. My favorite fantasy author is Terry Pratchett, and I think when you know that it's pretty obvious where I get a lot of my dry humor and complex character detail. I've also read every single Redwall book maybe a million times? The ones with the mice and squirrels and stuff that go on fantasy adventures with swords?? Yeah, those are the ones. You might not think Fantasy Mice would factor heavily into my comic about 20-Something Fish Market Employees, but it's there, deep down inside. Stories with a core cast of characters that journey and fight and grow together have always been my jam.

As for artistic influences, I actually never went through an 'anime-phase' because I didn't realize Pokemon was anime until high school and I thought the human characters were too hard to draw anyways. I DID copy Jamie Hewlett's style (Gorillaz, Tank Girl, etc.) when I was younger, which I think is easy to see in the way I draw hands and shoulders and long rectangular bodies. I also pulled heavily from video games like Okage: Shadow King and Final Fantasy 9. I just kind of laid every new influence over the Gorillaz look and finally we have what we see today.

6. How do you stay motivated to keep working on such a long comic?

I am most motivated by the idea of finally finishing Sakana one day and having hundreds of pages of comics to show for it. I'm a real completionist at heart: I get the biggest thrill out of finishing pages and projects. I learned long ago that if I think about a story for too long it starts to get too complex to complete or, through constant re-imaginings of the same scenes, looses key elements that made me think it was fun in the first place. My stories work best when I come up with a beginning and and ending, and just start working through them as soon as possible.

7. What do you think of the fan response to Sakana?

I AM SO ASTONISHED EVERY DAY AT THE FAN RESPONSE TO SAKANA. I never imagined people would take this much of an interest in it, and go on to make so many amazing and exciting fanworks all on their own! I'm kind of a worry-wart, and I'm never sure whether people want to do their own thing in their own corner or if they don't mind me barging into their space screaming HOLY SHIT IS THAT FANART??? OF MY COMIC????? like some kind of crazy comics banshee. And the fanfiction??? That's amazing too? And all the Japanese fans who have made Sakana doujinshi????? IT'S ALL REALLY AMAZING, and frankly I am always privately screaming to myself about all of it. Thank you all so much for enjoying my comic, and being inspired enough by it to go on to make your own amazing artwork and writing! IT'S A LOT FOR ME TO PROCESS ;O; <333

~ ~ ~

We hope you enjoy this art zine to celebrate such a great comic!



Hannah Daigle







Amanda "Robin" Leiserowitz



Rooibos



Amanda Fowler



AmetAlias



Sima Namin



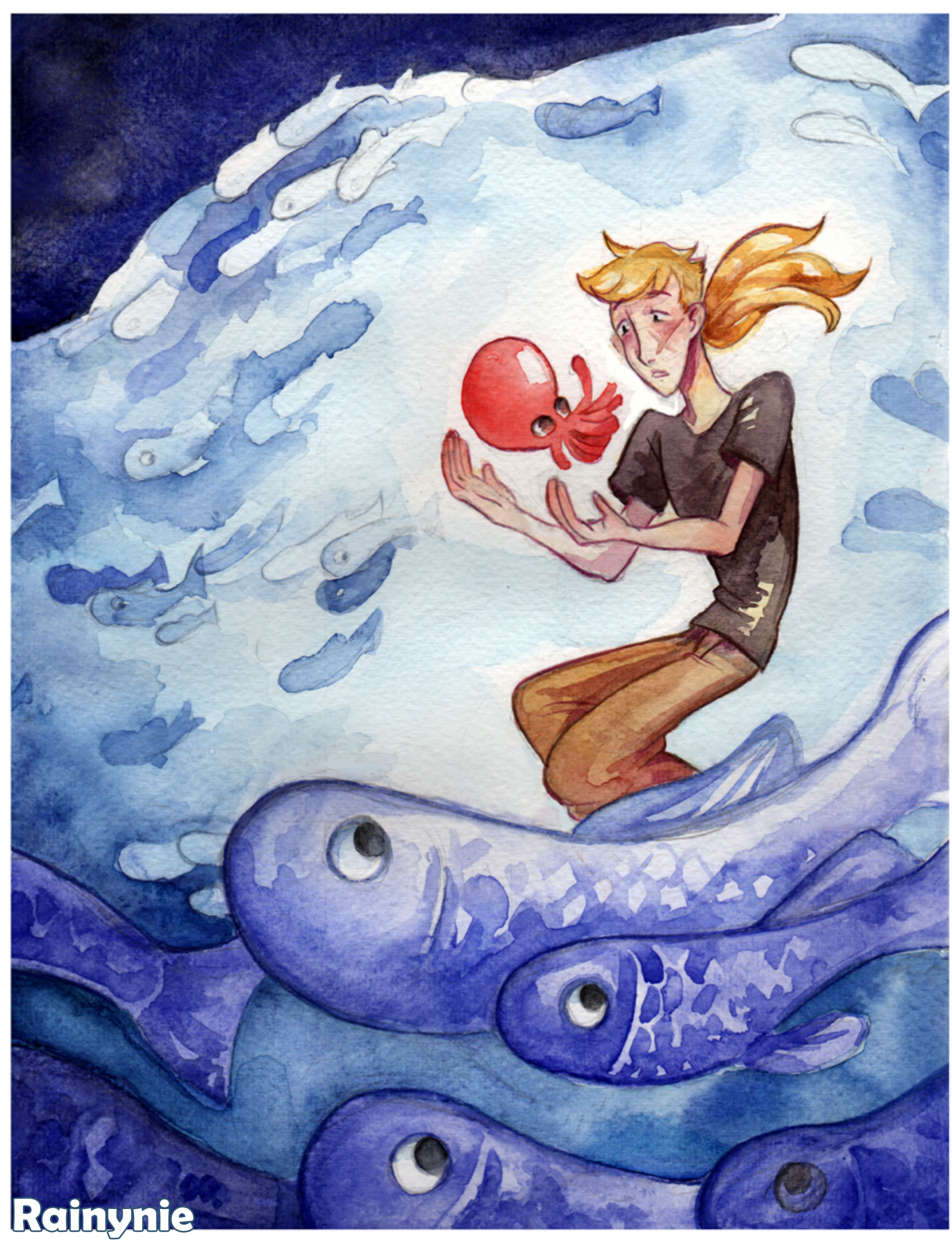
Logan



Evie



Mollie Rose



Rainynie



Jey Pawlik



Bal Flanagan



Victoria Smith



Natasha Nayo



Corinth Boone



Brandi Payne





Hal



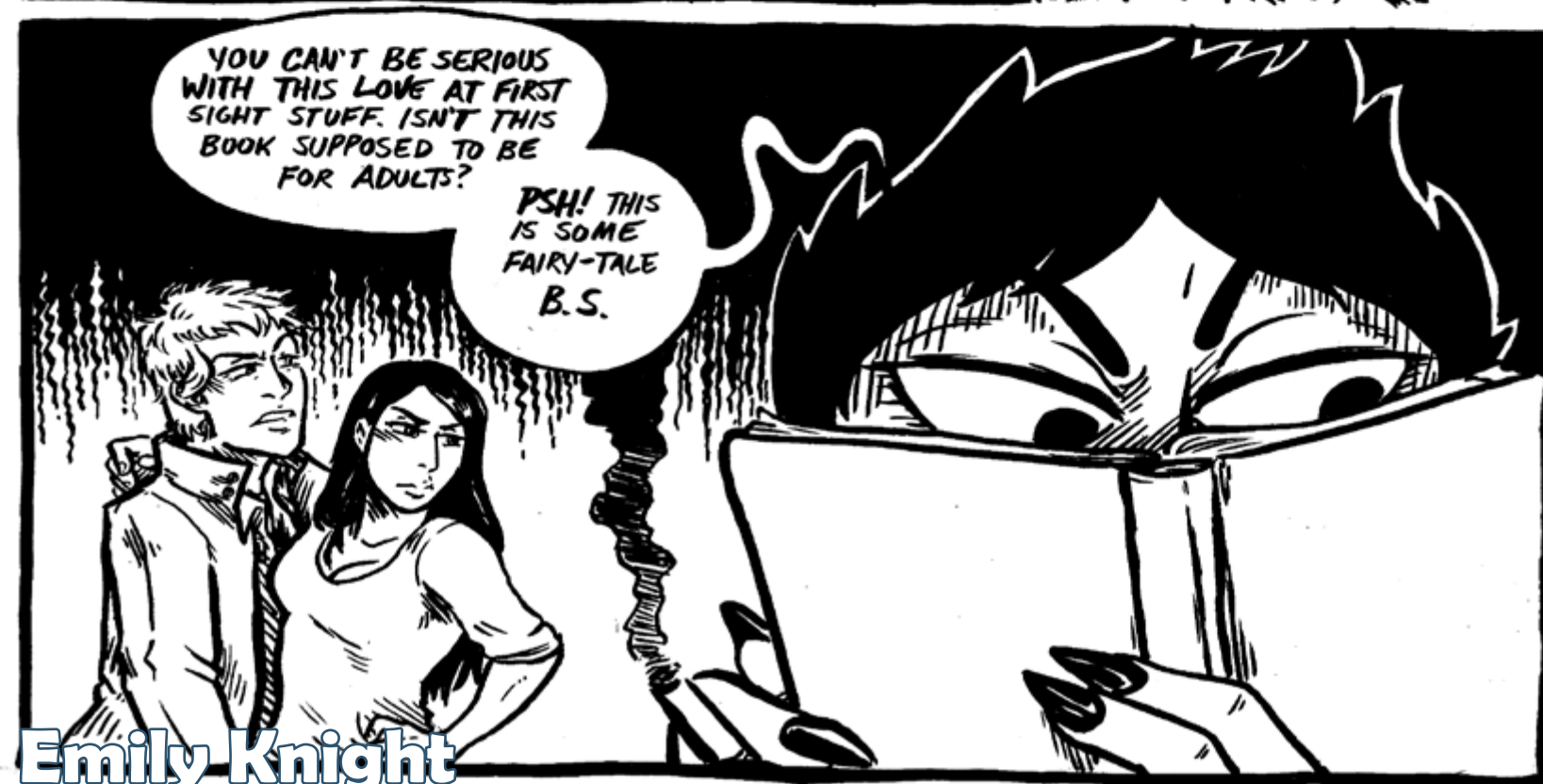
Mac Redden



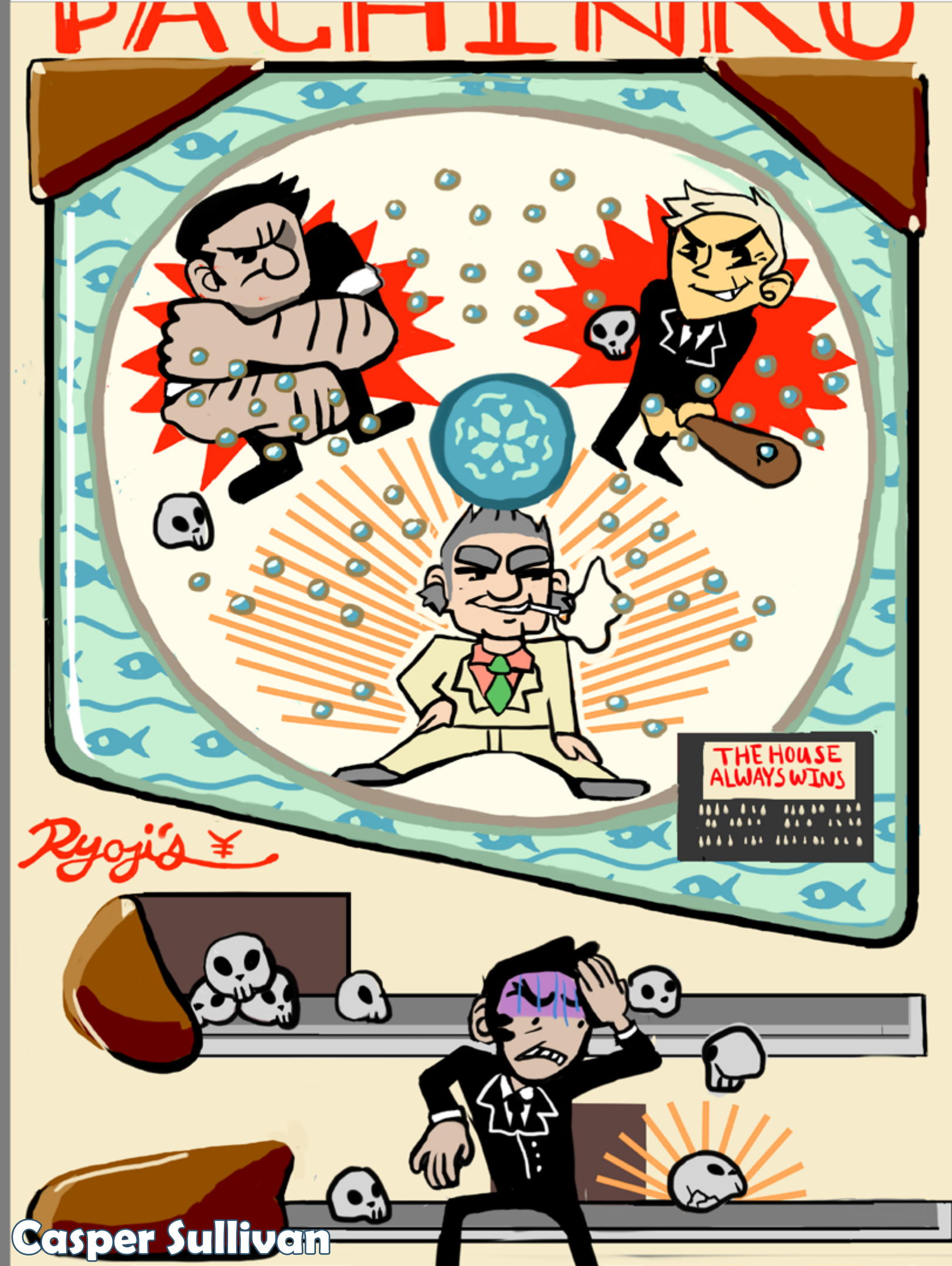
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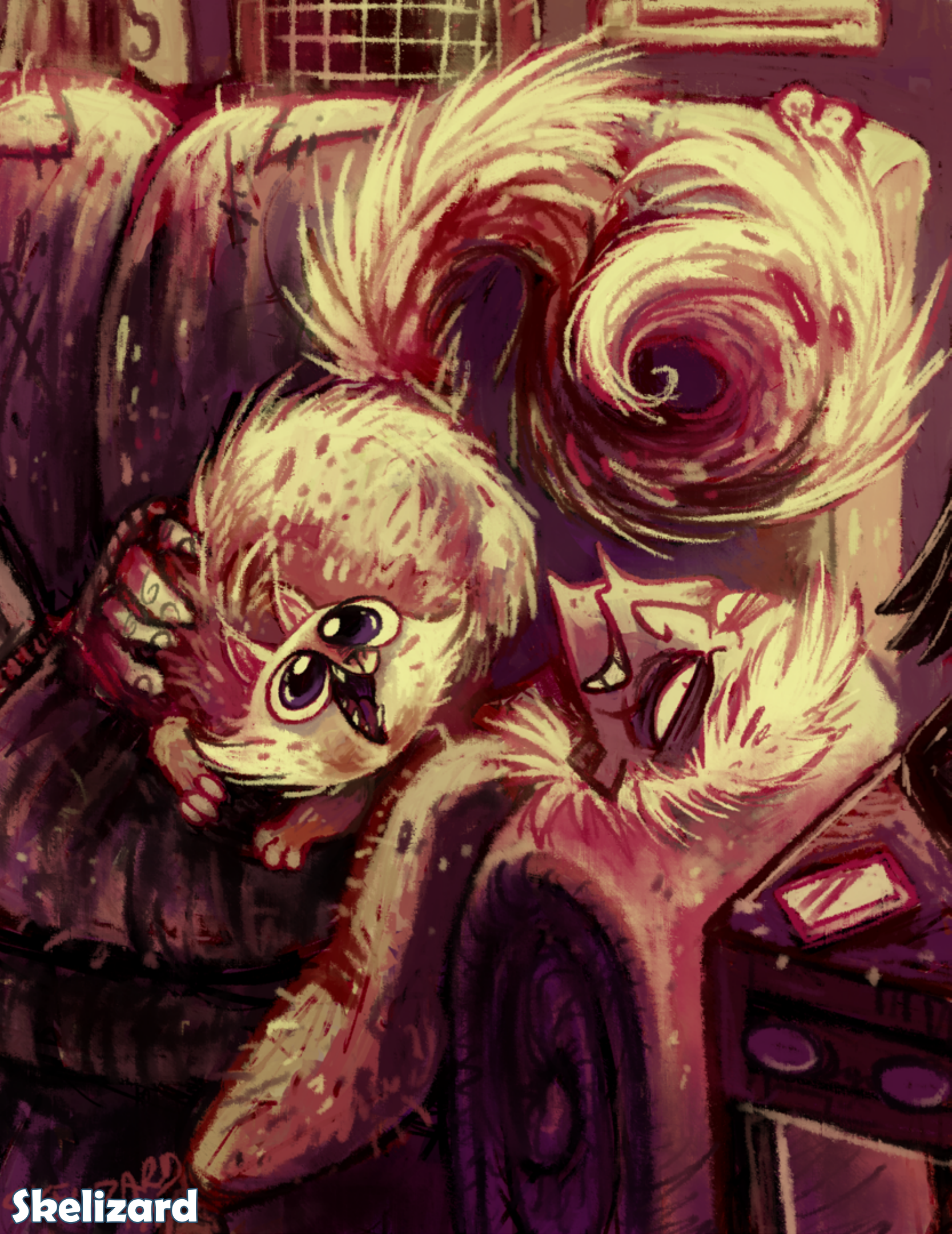
Jaye











Skelizard



SKELIZARD 17



Casper Sullivan



Carl Doonan



Kayleigh



MK Harris



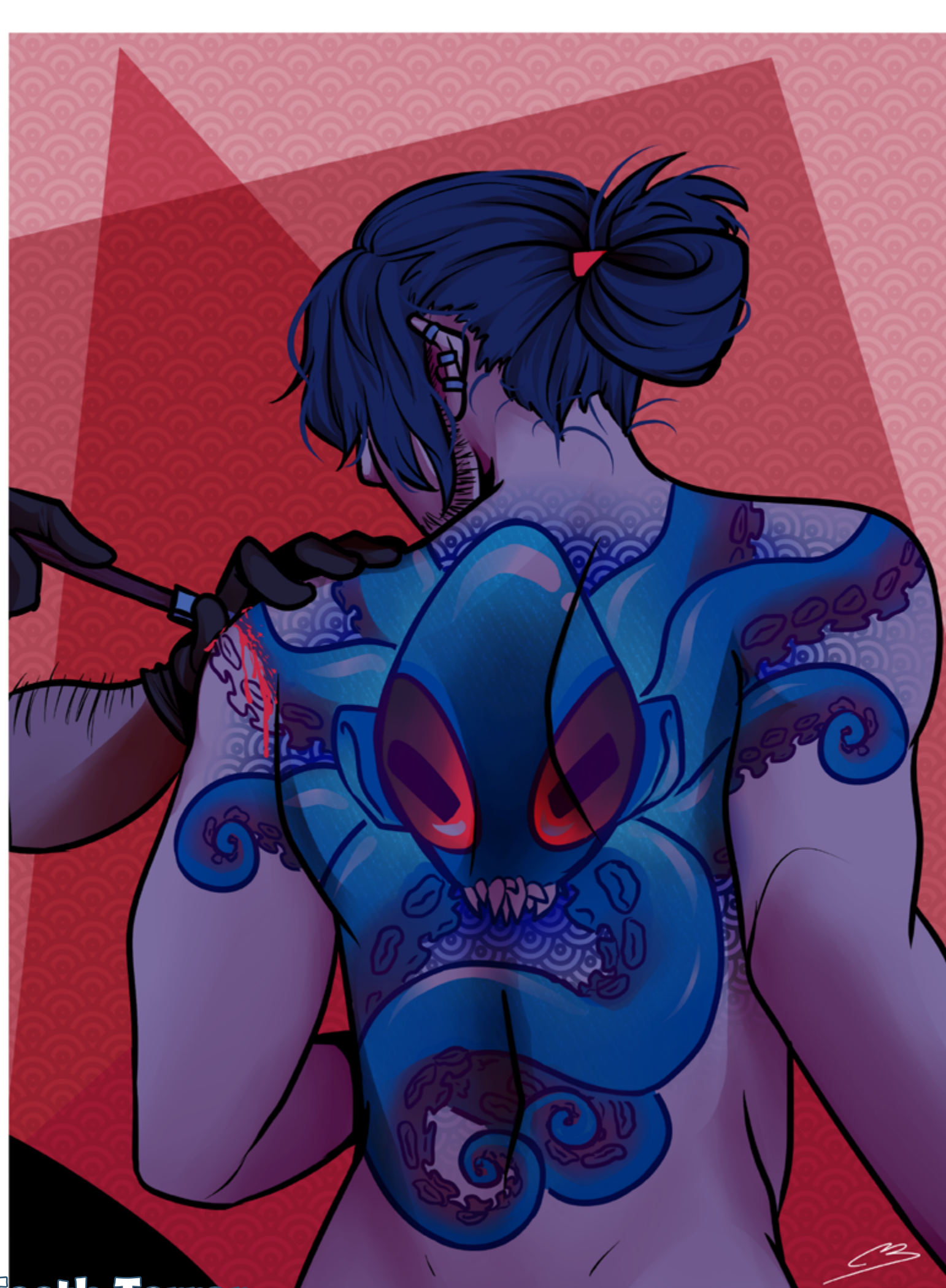
SHAD ♀ **Shad Andrews**



Sabrina Walden



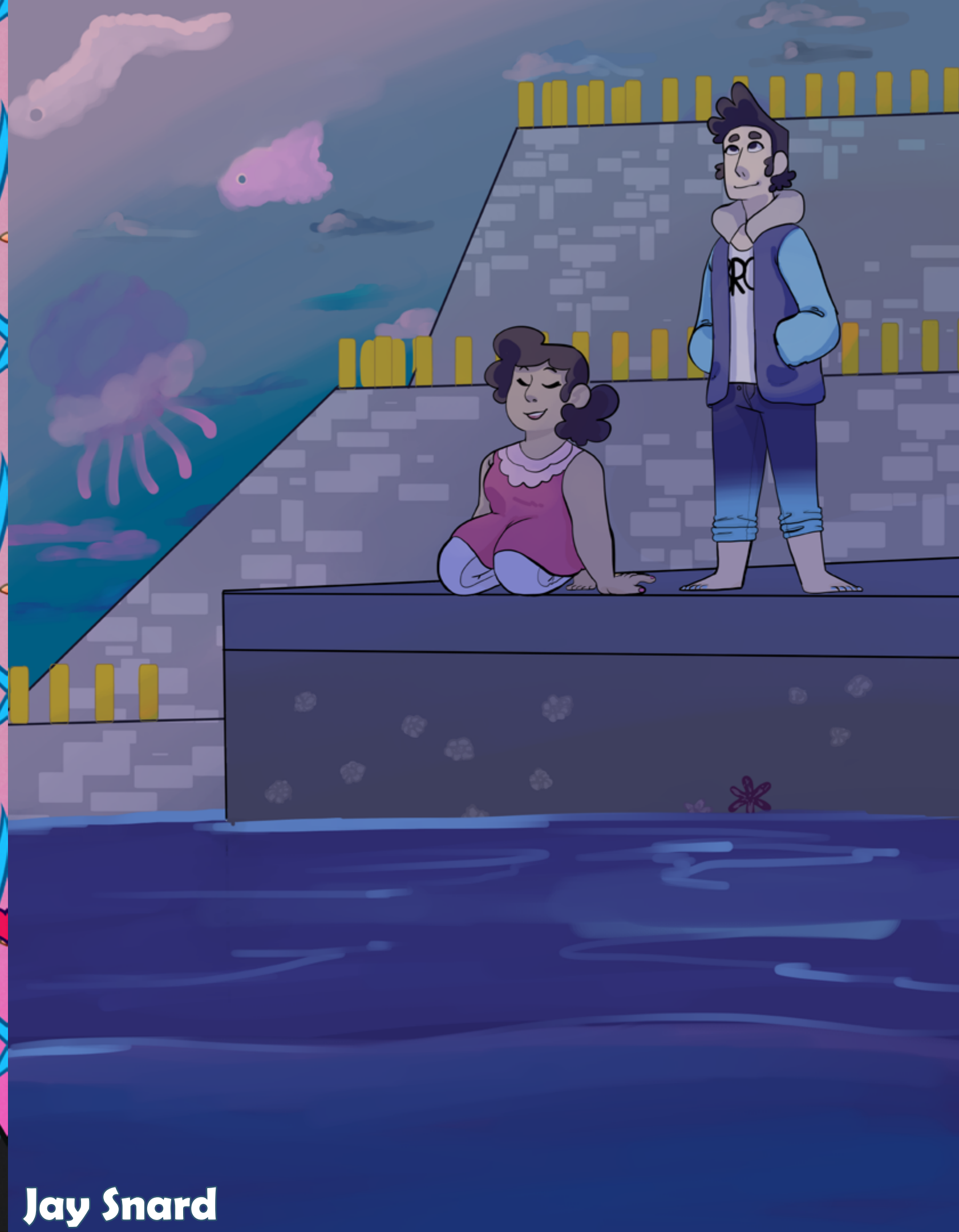
Milo



Teeth Terror



John Henny



Jay Snard



Kasia Woe 2017



Andy Yanez





Hannah Daigle

Artist Credits & Thanks

Thank you for downloading Catch of the Day!

We're all big fans of Sakana and just seeing all the great pieces that came out of this zine really shows how loved this webcomic is. It means a lot to all of us and I hope to you as a reader as well.

Be sure to support Mad Rupert and Sakana online

sakana-comic.com

patreon.com/mynameismad



Organizer/Editor
Cover Page
Jey Pawlik



Background Pattern
Kayleigh



Thank you to Sunday & Benny for getting us all together!



A. Cat

An overworked lobster girl trying her best to balance school, art, video games, and sleep. If given the chance, would smooch a shark.

glodea212.tumblr.com

Amanda Fowler

Amanda is an aspiring animator that lives off of water and minimal sleep hoping one day to put her 2D animation diploma to good use. Her biggest goal for life is to start up a webcomic eventually.

[@opalcake](https://opalcake.tumblr.com)



Cassie Infante

An illustrator who likes too many things. She spent a very long time deciding whether to write in third person or not.

cassin.tumblr.com

Corinth Boone

Corinth is a shy artist from New Jersey who spends a ridiculous amount of time sleeping and thinking about dogs. Her hobbies include drawing (obviously), playing video games, being in nature and reading webcomics.

[@cakecountry](https://cakecountry.tumblr.com)



Amanda "Robin" Leiserowitz

Robin is undergraduate student from California, studying game design. She loves carving stamps and filling sketchbooks!

milkchocolatefreckles.tumblr.com

AmetAlias

Associated marine animal: jellyfish or goldfish

[@star_amet](https://star_amet.tumblr.com)



Emily Knight

Emily is a comic artist that adores the gross. She's a fan of mean characters, so the angry ones are probably her favorites.

[@emblybobembly](https://emblybobembly.tumblr.com)

Evie

Computer science student. Likes bugs, reptiles, dinosaurs, and amphibians. Has a comic in the works.

lonelytuatara.tumblr.com



Andy Yanez

Ecuadorian born
Really short
SCAD graduate

Likes birds, sleeping, and french fries.

wasongo.tumblr.com

Bal Flanagan

A Minnesota-based illustrator with an odd sense of humor and E-rank gacha luck. They adore their cat Whiskey Bumbles, gardening, idols, crying over video games, and drawing obscure and unnecessary crossovers. Find them either lurking in their art cave or around the country at various conventions.

illusbal.tumblr.com



Hal

Born and raised in New York, Hal isn't quite sure what to do next, but is just happy to be here.

halzudoodles.tumblr.com

Hannah Daigle

An elusive art goblin with an affinity for cartoony expressions and indie music. She also enjoys sculpting, biking, and nature.

[@rainybleuu](https://rainybleuu.deviantart.com)
rainy-bleu.deviantart.com



Black Limes

A fruit that makes and reads a lot of comics. Her favorite fish boy is the angry green one, but the sweaty blue one is a close 2nd.

[@astrolimes](https://astrolimes.tumblr.com)

Brandi Payne

Brandi (aka brandirecognition) is a design and illustration student from Tennessee who spends more time than recommended thinking about comics and video games.

brandirecognition.tumblr.com



Jaye

Hi, this is Jaye. I like reading comics and also making comics. That is everything you need to know~

fakemagicjaye.tumblr.com

Jay Snard/Procrasti

A huge softie who cries about fictional characters achievements Too Much™

[@snardart](https://snardart.tumblr.com)
snardart.tumblr.com



Carl Doonan

An animator that makes movin' pictures! He draws silly and/or beefy things when he's not busy playing way too many video games.

carldoonan.tumblr.com

Casper Sullivan

A fan of novelty ties. He'd like to make a video game someday, but who knows.

combt.tumblr.com



Jey Pawlik

Jey is a queer cartoonist. They are always furiously working on any project they can get their hands on. Like this one! They draw comics and animate about silly things.

[@jpdraws](https://jpdraws.tumblr.com)
jpawlik.com

John Henny

I'm 22 years old from Sweden, I draw and animate a lot! I hope to one day make a decent living out of it. I love comics, cartoons and hot dogs.

[@gorillapruett](https://gorillapruett.tumblr.com)





Kasia Woe

- Canadian
- Cries a lot
- Dabs frequently when inappropriate
- Is perpetually hungry

kasiawo.tumblr.com

Kayleigh

Kayleigh is an illustration student from Michigan with a love for comics and storytelling. At any given time she is either thinking about Dungeons and Dragons or tarot. Sometimes both. She's a multifaceted woman.

confettiinourhair.tumblr.com



Rainynie

Loves witches a lot and making watercolor paintings! They hope to make a comic or really cool illustrations someday.

@rainynie

Rhaign Jiron

Born in 1995, agender, and an all-around mess and full-time shut in; Rhaign spends his days holed up in his room refreshing social media and drowning in omnipresent, long overdue work. Jobs include character design, freelance illustration, and pin-up work.
@rhaignjiron
rhaignjiron.tumblr.com



Logan

Logan is a part-time Artist/full-time Cook stationed in the Nothern California mountains, spending her days drawing comics and trying to figure out what kind of music she wants to listen to.

floralmarsupial.tumblr.com

Lydia Estep

Lydia is an artist from Houston TX who loves dogs, roller coasters, and comics! She plans on pursuing a career in animation.

@estepplydia



RJ Morel

Teacher by day, RJ was inspired by Sakana to create their own comic, 2 Slices. RJ enjoys spooky things, forests, and dumb slapstick.

firehouselight.tumblr.com

Rooibos

A queer comic artist from Poland. Creator of the Set It on Random webcomic. Likes ghosts, music and soup. Must draw 2 live.

setitonrandom.com



Mac Redden

Mac is a Canadian animation student. They can usually be found fawning over cute bugs or drawing clowns.

satourni.tumblr.com

Maiwenn

A naturalist and comic artist who usually draws more birds and insects than fishes. But drawing cuties is her jam so there she is !

maiwenn.deviantart.com



Sabrina Walden

Sabrina is an artist living in Austin, TX who hopes to make a career out of their art someday. They enjoy spending their time watching cartoons, drawing, and never leaving the house. Is an eternally tired individual.

sabinadraws.tumblr

Shad Andrews

Crying about D&D characters

Cosplaying Arata 4 years before he was in the comic.

@whaoanon



Milo

Small, sleepy, and spectacularly accident prone; he's got no idea what he's doing, but he sure is trying his best.

frightcapsule.tumblr.com

MK Harris

MK Harris is a background painter at Titmouse who draws lots of comics and is acutally quite afraid of fish.

hospitalvespers.tumblr.com



Sima Namin

A young artist who loves bugs.

@princehoneytea
facase.tumblr.com

Skelizard

Spends majority of their time drawing stupid cartoons, the moving and non-moving ones.

@skelizardarts
skelizard.tumblr.com



Mollie Rose

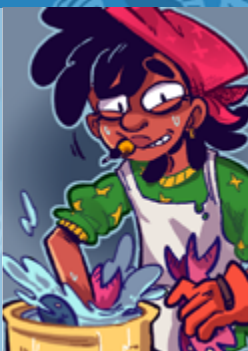
An illustrator living in Tucson, AZ. Helps draw officialspookycomics on Tumblr! Definitely 100% human.

@beverlymantle
friendswithfangs.tumblr.com

Natasha Nayo

2D animator, illustrator and freelance enthusiast! Currently hosting a webcomic, Beyond the Walls, cause i love comics so much!

starcre8art.tumblr.com



Teeth Terror

rod serling was shorter than me. i could have beaten the snot out of rod serling. pass it on.

teethterror.tumblr.com

Victoria Smith

When not working towards their art degree, Victoria Smith is a comic artist from San Antonio, TX who draws and paints nerd things.

@sicklyboring





thank you

